

Message Text

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TO JUSMG MAAG MADRID SP/PL PRIORITY

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E.O. 11652:N/A

TAGS: TSPA

SUBJECT: SPACE SHUTTLE CONTINGENCY PLANNING

REF: JUSMG MAAG 211320, JULY 78

1. INFORMATION REQUESTED PARA 2B REFTTEL FOLLOWS:

(A) NO CONSTRUCTION OR SPECIAL FACILITIES WILL BE
REQUIRED TO PREPARE SITE FOR POSSIBLE EMERGENCY LANDING.
AFTER LANDING, RECOVERY TEAM WOULD HAVE TO POUR CONCRETE
PADS FOR FOOTING AND ANCHOR BOLTS ON WHICH PORTABLE MATE/
DEMATE STIFF LEG DERRICK WOULD BE ERECTED. IN THIS
FACILITY THE ORBITER WOULD THEN BE MATED TO THE 747 AIR-
CRAFT. THE PORTABLE MATE/DEMATE STRUCTURE WOULD THEN BE
DISMANTLED AND RETURNED TO THE US. THE NASA TEAM WOULD
THEN REMOVE ANY PROTRUSIONS FROM THE CONCRETE PADS AS
NECESSARY.

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(B) IN THE EVENT OF A SPACE SHUTTLE EMERGENCY LANDING,
A TEAM OF UP TO 55 (MOSTLY NASA CIVILIAN OR NASA CONTRAC-
TOR PERSONNEL) WOULD BE AIR DEPLOYED IN FIVE CARGO AIRCRAFT
FROM THE U.S. ALONG WITH THE DERRICK AND OTHER SPECIAL

EQUIPMENT TO TAKE NECESSARY ACTIONS TO SAFELY RETURN
ORBITER TO U.S. CURRENT TIMELINE ANTICIPATED FOR

DEPLOYMENT, MATING ACTIONS AND CLEAN UP IS ESTIMATED
AT LANDING PLUS 45 DAYS.

(C) PREPARING SHUTTLE ORBITER FOR RETURN TRIP TO U.S.
WILL BE RESPONSIBILITY OF NASA RECOVERY TEAM. LITTLE OR
NO IMPACT ON SPANISH ACTIVITIES AT THE BASE SHOULD
OCCUR. ONCE THE LANDING AND CREW EGRESS HAS BEEN
ACCOMPLISHED, THE ORBITER WOULD BE TOWED TO ANOTHER
ISOLATED AREA ON THE BASE, WHERE SECURITY WOULD BE
ESTABLISHED TO PREVENT ANY DAMAGE TO THE SPACECRAFT
OR POSSIBLE INJURY TO SPECTATORS. NASA TEAM WOULD BE
DISPATCHED AS SOON AS POSSIBLE AFTER LANDING TO DIRECT
AND ACCOMPLISH ORBITER DESERVICING., SAFING VARIOUS
ORBITER SYSTEMS, AND PREPARING ORBITER FOR RETURN
FLIGHT TO THE U.S. POSSIBLE LOCAL BASE HELP MIGHT
BE REQUIRED IN OBTAINING CONCRETE AND HELPING IN LAYING
PADS FOR STIFF LEG DERRICK AND TIE DOWN POINTS. LOCAL
BASE TRANSPORTATION WOULD BE REQUESTED OR RENTAL VEHICLES
USED. NASA WOULD RELY ON U.S. MILITARY FOR HELP, THERE-
FORE, DISTRUPTION TO SPANISH ACTIVITIES AT THE BASE
SHOULD BE MINIMAL.

2. IF FURTHER CLARIFICATION IS NEEDED, PLEASE RELAY
ASAP. FIRM DECISIONS NEED SOONEST TO ALLOW PREPARA-
TION OF ON-BOARD COMPUTER PROGRAMS FOR SHUTTLE ORBI-
TER LANDING SYSTEM. VANCE
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